MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Ag. Chief Secretary to Government*): A statement* with the required particulars is laid on the table.

Auction Sale of Toddy Shops.

81. MR. MURUVELIL PACHU PILLAI (*Shertallai*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) the number of toddy shops which were sold in auction for the years 1104 and 1105 by the Excise Commissioner up to the 32nd Mithunam 1103;

(*b*) the amounts of the auction sale for all these shops together in 1102 and 1103;

(*c*) the amount of the auction sale for all these shops together in the auction that is just over;

(*d*) the total number of shops which could not be sold in auction on the appointed date in the taluks where auction sale is over;

(*e*) whether it was due to the fact that no one bid in the auction that these shops could not be sold or whether it was due to the fact that the amount expected by the Commissioner was not reached in the auction;

(*f*) whether the shops which the Commissioner could not sell in auction on the appointed date were given away to anybody afterwards; and, if so, the number of such shops given; and whether they were thus given after or without auction; and

(*g*) whether there is any definite provision regarding the number of trees that may be tapped for each shop?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Ag. Chief Secretary to Government*): (*a*) 902.

(*b*) Rs. 9,21,770.

(*c*) Rs. 12,19,645.

(*d*) 131.

(*e*) In a few cases, shops were not sold as there were no bids at the time of auction; and in others, shops were not sold owing to the following reasons:—

(i) want of competition on account of combination among bidders; and

(ii) want of information regarding the solvency of bidders.

(*f*) Yes; 96 shops were thus disposed of. They were given without auction.

(*g*) Under Rule 21 of the Tree Tax Rules, power is reserved to the officer in charge of the Division to restrict the number of trees to the actual requirements of each shop.

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* *Vide* Appendix IV—page 467.

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